WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1.   A depth cue method comprising the steps of:

2   scanning a depth map corresponding to an image, in response to user input; and

3   outputting a nonvisual cue corresponding to a depth value in said depth map, for

4 each pixel scanned.

1 2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said nonvisual cue is selected from the group

2 consisting of auditory cues and tactile cues.

1 3.   The method of claim 1 wherein said depth map is received in response to a web

2 page containing said image.

1 4.   The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of, if no depth map is received

2 in response to said web page containing said image, generating said depth map.

1 5.   The method of claim 4 wherein said step of generating said depth map comprises:

2   performing a depth analysis of a set of images associated with said image, said

3 set of images operable for extracting depth information therefrom.; and

4   assigning a depth value corresponding to said depth information for each pixel

5 corresponding to said image.

1 6.   The method of claim 5 wherein said set of images associated with said image is

1   selected from the group consisting of a stereographic pair including said image and a

2   plurality of images operable for displaying motion.

1   7.   The method of claim 5 wherein said step of generating said depth map further

2   comprises the steps of:

3   setting each depth value in a data structure to form said depth map; and

4   outputting said data structure.

1   8.   A computer program product embodied in a tangible storage medium, the

2   program product for accessing graphical data, the program product including a program

3   of instructions for performing the steps of:

4   scanning a depth map corresponding to an image, in response to user input; and

5   outputting a nonvisual cue corresponding to a depth value in said depth map, for

6   each pixel scanned.

1   9.   The program product of claim 8 wherein said nonvisual cue is selected from the

2   group consisting of auditory cues and tactile cues.

1   10.   The program product of claim 8 wherein said depth map is received in response

2   to a web page containing said image.

1   11.   The program product of claim 10 further comprising programming for performing

2   the step of, if no depth map is received in response to said web page containing said

3   image, generating said depth map.

1   12.   The method of claim 11 wherein said programming for performing step of

2   generating said depth map comprises programming for performing the steps of:

3   performing a depth analysis of a set of images associated with said image, said

4   set of images operable for extracting depth information therefrom.; and

5   assigning a depth value corresponding to said depth information for each pixel

6   corresponding to said image.

1   13.   The program product of claim 12 wherein said set of images associated with said

2   image is selected from the group consisting of a stereographic pair including said image

3   and a plurality of images operable for displaying motion.

1   14.   The program product of claim 12 wherein said programming for performing step

2   of generating said depth map further comprises programming for performing the steps

3   of:

4   setting each depth value in a data structure to form said depth map; and

5   outputting said data structure.

1   15.   A data processing system comprising:

2   circuitry operable for scanning a depth map corresponding to an image, in

3   response to user input; and

4   outputting a nonvisual cue corresponding to a depth value in said depth map, for

5   each pixel scanned.

1   16.   The system of claim 15 wherein said nonvisual cue is selected from the group

2   consisting of auditory cues and tactile cues.

1   17.   The system of claim 15 wherein said depth map is received in response to a web

2   page containing said image.

1   18.   The system of claim 17 further comprising circuitry operable for, if no depth map

2   is received in response to said web page containing said image, generating said depth

3   map.

1   19.   The system of claim 18 wherein said circuitry operable for generating said depth

2   map comprises:

3   circuitry operable for performing a depth analysis of a set of images associated

4   with said image, said set of images operable for extracting depth information therefrom.;

5   and

6   circuitry operable for assigning a depth value corresponding to said depth

7   information for each pixel corresponding to said image.

1   20.   The system of claim 19 wherein said set of images associated with said image is

2   selected from the group consisting of a stereographic pair including said image and a

3   plurality of images operable for displaying motion.

1   21.   The system of claim 17 wherein said circuitry operable for generating said depth

2   map further comprises:

3   circuitry operable for setting each depth value in a data structure to form said

4   depth map; and

5   circuitry operable for outputting said data structure.